GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:389
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the focus of health care for women is still limited to child birth and initial period of post child birth;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such a situation; and

(c) the efforts being made to provide comprehensive health services to women?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 389 FOR 9.4.2003

Women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years are more vulnerable to morbidity and mortality due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Based on the data on maternal mortality ratio (MMR) provided by the Sample Registration System (SRS - 1998), of the Registrar General of India, it is estimated that about 1.1 lakh women in India die every year due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. As a major supplement to the current strategies and programmes the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme has been addressed primarily to women in the reprodcutive age group to bring down the maternal mortality ratio. The interventions are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), staff nurses and hiring of anaesthetists.A number of national health and disease control programmes are being implemented by the Government. These national programmes lay equal stress on providing comprehensive health care to both men and women.

To attend to this major problem, State Governments have also taken several steps to provide comprehensive health care to women not only uptil childbirth and in the initial post childbirth years by making adequate provision in the State Budget and through the facilities of their Departments of Health and Family Welfare.

A National Cancer Control Programme for early detection and treatment of cervical and breast cancers among women is also under implementation. The National AIDS Control Programme in collaboration with the Departments of Family Welfare of Government of India and the State Governments carries out a nation wide Family Health awareness Campaign of HIV/AIDS and Reproductive trac infections and sexually transmitted infections (RTI/STI)and also provides treatment for RTI/STI during the campaign period.Evidence is also becoming available that hormonal and matabolic disorders and micronutrient deficiencies like Vitamin D contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality among women particularly those in the peri and post menopausal age group. Services for these ailments are being provided through the existing hospitals and other health care facilities.